

EXCISE 55 E

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

23 GUAT

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GUANTANAMO
HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

RECEIVED

INFO : CINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, DOD

OCT 2 15 00 AM '67

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: September 30, 1967

SUBJECT: Weekly Internal Security Report: September 23-29, 1967

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
OCT 1 - 1967

REF :

Summary and Conclusions

1. It was another full week and violent incidents were reported in 8 Departments. While specific details are lacking in most cases as to who was responsible and for what motive, it seems clear that the now familiar pattern of recent weeks continued; most activity could be attributed to the anti-Communists--either the formal security forces, or their clandestine adjuncts. The insurgents were quiet.

Kidnappings

2. There were several more kidnappings this week--the most notable being that of Adalberto Echeverría, a lawyer and former Supreme Court Justice. He was taken from his Zone 1 house on September 27 by unknown men. The motive is still a mystery; there have not been any reports of ransom being demanded. The Colegio de Abogados (bar association) sent telegrams to both the President and the Minister of Government calling for immediate measure to locate him.

3. Another interesting development was the release of Antonio Estrada Aguilar on September 26. He had been kidnapped on September 19 (Guatemala A-134). According to press reports, he said he did not know who his kidnappers were but they had given him 24 hours to leave the country or lose his life and the September 29 press reports he has left.

4. There were also a number of ~~shootings~~. For example, in Olapa, Department of Chiquimula, a group of armed men lined 2 campesinos against a wall

Enclosure: List of Incidents

REVIEWED BY *Ed*

DATE

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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and shot them in cold blood on September 26, and in Puerto Barrios the Police Chief of the Department of Izabal and his bodyguard were machine gunned and wounded from a moving car. There were 3 or 4 similar shootings (see list of incidents, attached).

5. Of a different nature was the fatal shooting on September 27 of Raúl Obregón Castro, student in the law school at San Carlos University. According to some press accounts, he was shot by a policeman who fired at the car in which the student was riding when it failed to stop as ordered. The police, however, deny involvement and an investigation is underway. Some student elements are already holding protest meetings and it is probable that the PGT will try to make a political issue of his death. Editorial comment has begun to appear in both press and radio; some of this (especially from the sensational "radio-newspaper") apparently are veiled attacks on the Méndez administration and seems to follow the extremist line.

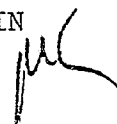
Security Forces

6. The overt security forces had a fairly quiet week but, according to press reports, they had big day on September 26 when in three separate incidents they arrested 6 supposed guerrillas handing out FAR literature.

Miscellaneous

7. Other activity included a foiled sabotage attempt, the machine gunning of a house in the capital, and the discovery of 11 more assassination victims.

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LIST OF INCIDENTS

September

- 20 - Three bodies found in Pasaco, Dept. Jutiapa with multiple .45 caliber wounds. They were not identified and no political motive known.
- 21 - Jorge Córdova Molina (alias Huevo Loco) MANO leader, found shot dead in Santa Maria de Jesus, Dept. Sacatepéquez. Press speculate he was shot elsewhere and brought to Santa Maria. B1
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- 22 - House of Jose Manuel Erazo Fuentes, high municipal official in Esquipulas, Dept. Chiquimula, machinegunned. No political motive known.
- 23 - Two comisionados militares and their companion wounded in surprise early morning attack in Morales, Dept. Izabal. They were identified as Javier Mendez, David Salguero and Raul Aparicio. According to reports, they were able to identify their attackers but no arrests have been made. No political motive yet known.
- 23 - Submachine gun armed men wound guard at electric plant at Morales, Dept. Izabal but their sabotage attempt not successful. Their identity or motive not known.
- 23 - Manuel Hernan Arana-kidnapped from his home in Aqua Blanca, Dept. Jutiapa. He had not been threatened, according to family, and no political motive known.
- 23 - Two bodies found, with multiple bullet wounds, near San Andres Villa Seca, Dept. Retalhuleu. They were identified as Roberto Alvarado, assistant to comisionado militar, and Julio Humberto Cardenas Barrios. They had been taken from their homes by armed uniformed men the day before. No political motive known.
- 23 - Body found shot in Santo Domingo, Dept. Suchitepequez. He was identified as Leandro Galicia. No political motive known.
- 23 - Mutilated body of woman found in La Gomera, Dept. Escuintla. No political motive known.
- 25 - Chief of Police of Dept. Izabal, Lt. Col. Roberto Edmundo Garcia Aramilla, and his bodyguard, Juan Anton y Anton, badly wounded when they were shot at with submachine guns from a moving car in Puerto Barrios. Political motive unknown.

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- 26 - Bullet riddled body of Jorge Guido Majia Lemus found in car in Esquipulas, Dept. Chiquimula. No political motive known.
- 26 - Press reports Carlos Leonel Aparicio Lobo and Miguel Angel Mendez Avila arrested in capital for distributing FAR propaganda.
- 26 - Antonio Estrada Aguilar, kidnapped September 19 (Guatemala A-134), freed in Santa Rosita, Dept. Guatemala. He reportedly did not know who his captors had been. Press reports he told by kidnappers to leave country and he has done so.
- 26 - Jorge Alberto Diaz de Leon, law student at San Carlos, captured in Zone 3 of capital. He reportedly had 2 automatic pistols on his person and had been distributing subversive flyers. His family plead his innocence.
- 26 - Orlando Aguilar Samoyoa and Jose Olvido Elias Rodriguez arrested in Zone 7 where they were reportedly distributing subversive flyers.
- O/A 26 - Two men were lined up against wall and machinegunned to death by 8 men in Olopa, Dept. Chiquimula. They were identified as Francisco Perez Ramirez and Cecilio Perez y Perez. No political motive known.
- 27 - Body of Manuel Hernan Godoy found shot dead by .45 caliber slugs in Boca del Monte, Dept. Guatemala. Assailants and political motive, if any, unknown.
- 27 - Lawyer and former judge of Supreme Court, Adalberto Echeverria reported kidnapped from his Zone 1 house. Family claim he was apolitical and had not been threatened or otherwise bothered in past. No political motive known.
- 27 - Two assassinated bodies found in Nueva Concepcion, Tiquisate, Dept. Esquintla. Identified as Rodrigo Contreras Ruano and Efrain Cabrera y Cabrera. No political motive known.
- O/A 27 - Jesus Baibon de la Cruz and 3 of his children wounded by a group of men with submachine guns and revolvers in Nueva Concepcion, Dept. of Esquintla. No political motive known.
- 27 - Law student, Luis Raul Obregon Castro shot as car he was riding in passed in front of headquarters of 2nd Corps of National Police. Some press reports claim he was shot by policemen when car failed to stop for police signal. Police, however, deny responsibility for the death. An investigation is underway.

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